Chapter: 13. Hearsay admissible at common law

This chapter considers the following categories of hearsay: statements in public documents, works of reference, evidence of age, evidence of reputation, and statements forming part of the *res gestae*, statements which are admissions made by an agent of a defendant. All of these categories were established at common law as exceptions to the rule against hearsay, and all of them have been preserved by statute. All of the cases considered, apart from evidence of age and *res gestae* statements, have been expressly preserved and given statutory force in both criminal proceedings and civil proceedings (by s 7(2) and (3) of the Civil Evidence Act 1995).
13. Hearsay admissible at common law